

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	H. Kanno	CONF. NO.:	8448
U.S. SERIAL NO.:	10/702,373	EXAMINER:	S. Debnath
FILED:	November 5, 2003	GROUP:	2135
FOR:	IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM, SCANNER, AND TERMINAL APPARATUS		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action dated February 20, 2008 of the above-referenced application. Applicant responds to the Office Action as follows.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application.

Applicant's claimed invention is directed to an image processing system, a scanner, and a terminal apparatus in which fingerprint information stored in the scanner and/or terminal apparatus is deleted "upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed" (see, e.g., independent claims 1, 16, and 19).

According to the Applicant's claimed invention, it is possible to prevent "leakage" or unwanted disclosure of fingerprint information to the outside, at least because the fingerprint information is not maintained in storage (see, e.g., specification at page 15, lines 1-9).